



Michigan Migrant Services Committees
Family Independence Agency



CIVIL RIGHTS, MIGRANT FARM WORKERS, AND IMMIGRATION LAW

Each year, approximately 40,000 migrant and settle-out farm workers travel to Michigan to live and work within our communities to assure that crops are harvested for sale and consumption throughout the world. This information has been provided to ensure that the civil rights of migrant workers and other foreign nationals are protected.

- ◆ Law enforcement agencies and leaders throughout Michigan support the position that bias enforcement practices, whether real or perceived, are detrimental to the relationship between the police and the communities they serve because it erodes the foundation of trust needed to provide effective services.
- ◆ Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to regularly examine their interdiction and enforcement strategies to ensure that citizens are not being stopped because of their national origin, or color, and that all citizens are treated with the utmost courtesy and respect.
- ◆ Pursuant to the Immigration Reform Act of 1996, state and local law enforcement have no obligation to check or verify an individual's immigration status.
- ◆ Michigan's civil rights laws prohibit discrimination against any person based on religion, race, color, **national origin**, age, sex, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, familial status, or disability. A violation of the law may occur if the motivating reason for a law enforcement contact is based on one of the factors.
- ◆ **The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is available to provide technical assistance during regular working hours (8am-5pm) at (517) 335-3165 or 1-800-482-3604.** Additionally, the department will investigate complaints of racial profiling pursuant to its authority under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.
- ◆ Migrant workers may be asked to provide identification to the same extent as any other person in Michigan such as Michigan or other state driver's license or identification card, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Examples of different types of documents that may assist in confirming identification are: birth certificate, rent or utility bills, pay stubs, Mexican "matricula" or other pictured documents.

This bulletin is published by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and Michigan Department of Civil Rights in collaboration with the Michigan Migrant Services Committee-FIA, Interagency Migrant Resource Committee, Michigan Sheriffs' Association, and Michigan State Police.